

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----071800 120332Z /61

R 111555Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5391
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T RABAT 2780

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MO, SS, PBOR
SUBJ: GOM USE OF F-5'S

REF: A. STATE 117714, B. RABAT 2711

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL A, I RAISED GOM USE OF F-5'S AGAIN BRIEFLY WITH FONMIN BOUCETTA AT A LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR ON MAY 10. HE HAD RECEIVED REPORT OF MAY 3 NEWSOM-BENGELLOUN CONVERSATION AND COMMENTED THAT IT HAD REVEALED NOTHING NEW. AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, QUESTION WAS STILL BASIC U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD MOROCCO. I POINTED TO NEW ELEMENT THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD AT SOME POINT HAVE TO NOTIFY CONGRESS OF TECHNICAL VIOLATION OF 1960 AGREEMENT. I ALSO MENTIONED TO BOUCETTA MY TALK WITH GUEDIRA MAY 9 (REFTEL B). BOUCETTA, WHO CURRENTLY SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME IN FES WITH KING, SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH ME WEEK OF MAY 22 WHEN HIS SHUTTLING TO FES WILL HOPEFULLY BE OVER AND HIS PLANS FOR ATTENDING SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT IN NEW YORK ARE SET.

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2. AS FOR SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL A, WE BELIEVE DECISION TO INFORM CONGRESS OF A GOM VIOLATION OF F-5'S IS PREMATURE: (A) ROYAL COUNSELOR GUEDIRA AND NOW BOUCETTA BOTH PLAN TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH US; (B) WE WILL WANT TO ALERT MOROCCANS TO POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON OUR REGULAR MILITARY SALES PROGRAM AND TO REASSURE THEM THAT

WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO PROTECT THEIR FMS CREDITS NOW
RUNNING AT \$45 MILLION A YEAR. HOWEVER, PENDING DECISIONS
FROM THE CURRENT POLICY REVIEW IN WASHINGTON, WE ARE UNABLE
TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THEIR MANY QUESTIONS ON USE OF
FY 78 AND LATER CREDITS; AND (C) IN LIGHT OF OUR DELAY OF
TWO YEARS IN INFORMING GOM OF OUR DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS
OF 1960 AGREEMENT, OUR GOING TO CONGRESS WITHOUT FURTHER
DISCUSSION WITH GOM WOULD BE SEEN AS UNSEEMLY HASTE.

3. WE ARE HEADING FOR AN ALMOST CERTAIN CONFRONTATION GIVEN
THE ALL-CONSUMING NATIONAL PRIORITY OF THE SAHARA CAMPAIGN.
IT WOULD THUS SEEM ADVISABLE TO SEEK WAYS TO MITIGATE THE
PROBLEM. THE REQUESTS FOR DISCUSSION BY GUEDIRA AND BOUCETTA
WERE CLEARLY MADE IN LIGHT OF THE MAY 3 BENGELLOUN-NEWSOM
MEETING, SUGGESTING THAT THE KING HAS SOMETHING
IMPORTANT TO SAY. WE SHOULD HEAR THE MOROCCANS OUT
BEFORE NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.

4. GIVEN THE MOROCCAN VIEWS, WE SHOULD CONSIDER CON-
CENTRATING ON URGING THE MOROCCANS TO WITHDRAW THEIR
AIRCRAFT FROM MAURITANIA AND TO AGREE TO CEASE USING
THEM OVER MAURITANIAN TERRITORY. IF THE GOM AGREES TO
THE MAURITANIAN-USE RESTRICTION (BY NO MEANS CERTAIN),
OUR NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS COULD CITE MOROCCAN
ACQUIESCENCE WHERE JURIDICALLY (ALBEIT NOT POLITICALLY)
THERE CAN BE NO DISAGREEMENT ON INTERPRETING THE 1960
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AGREEMENT AND COULD THEN NOTE THAT DISCUSSION WOULD CONTINUE OVER
USING THE PLANES IN THE MOROCCAN SAHARA WHERE THERE IS
DISAGREEMENT OVER INTERPRETATION.
ANDERSON

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